



consumer news

Office of Consumer Affairs
Executive Office of the President Virginia H. Krauer, Director

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Secretary & Economics
Deputy Public Library

Room

Dear Consumer:

With this issue of CONSUMER NEWS we are beginning publication of CONSUMER REGISTER, which shall appear in each issue of the newsletter as a supplement. CONSUMER REGISTER is a summary of the consumer-interest items appearing in the *Federal Register*, which is the official notice of the Federal Government's proposals, decisions and regulations.

For the most part, CONSUMER REGISTER will feature proposals for new rules and regulations that will affect consumers. By publishing CONSUMER REGISTER, we hope consumers will become more aware of proposed Federal actions and will participate in government by voicing their comments on the proposals.

Many persons have told my office they have been interested in commenting on proposals mentioned in CONSUMER NEWS in the past, but they did not know how to go about it or whether it would do any good. My answer is that all comments are important—comments from business, from agriculture, from unions, from trade associations and from consumers. Public comments tell government agencies that people are interested in what their government is doing or proposing to do. Those who take the opportunity and time to comment do affect government.

Do not feel that you have to write your comments according to some government form. Simply write to an agency, stating your name and address and the proposal on which you are commenting. Then tell the agency why you are for or against the proposal.

Sincerely,

Justice Dept. cites milk prices in antitrust suit

Justice Dept. has filed a civil antitrust suit charging Associated Milk Producers Inc., one of the nation's three largest dairy marketing cooperatives, with monopolizing the sale of milk produced by dairy farmers in 14 states. The suit charges that as a result of the illegal practices, consumers have had to pay higher prices for milk and milk products, such as cheese and ice cream, because of the lack of competition by lower priced milk and milk products.

Specifically, the suit charges that AMPI, an association of 40,000 dairy farmer members, has combined and conspired with milk haulers and processors since 1967 to unreasonably restrain and monopolize the sale of milk to processors in Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas & Wisconsin. The suit alleges that AMPI has used a variety of practices to eliminate the competition of milk producers who were not members of AMPI. One result has been higher prices to consumers in the 14 states and other states in the Middle West, South & Southwest.

The antitrust suit asks the U.S. District Court in San Antonio, Tex., where AMPI has its headquarters, to prohibit AMPI from continuing the practices cited in the complaint and to enjoin the association from using threats or coercion to induce dairy farmers to join AMPI or to induce independent milk haulers and processors to refuse to haul or process milk for dairy farmers who are not members of AMPI.

FTC asks basis for cold & cough remedy claims

Federal Trade Commission has ordered 16 manufacturers of cold and cough remedies to furnish documentation for some of their advertising claims by April 1. These new documentation requirements follow previous FTC orders to other manufacturers to substantiate ad claims for automobiles, electric razors, television sets, air conditioners, toothpastes & dentifrices.

The agency cited the following firms and products last month:

AMERICAN HOME PRODUCTS CORP.—Dristan Nasal Mist, Dristan Vapor Spray, Dristan Tablets

BRISTOL-MYERS CO.—Congespirin, 4-Way Nasal Spray, Silence Is Golden

CHESEBROUGH-POND'S INC.—Pertussin 8 Hour Cough Formula, Pertussin Plus

F&F LABORATORIES INC.—F&F Cough Drops

FATHER JOHN'S MEDICINE CO. INC.—Father John's Medicine

HOFFMAN-LAROCHE INC.—Romilar III

MENTHOLATUM CO.—Mentholatum Ointment

MERCK & CO.—Sucrets Cold Decongestant Formula Lozenges, Sucrets Sore Throat Lozenges

MILES LABORATORIES INC.—Alka Seltzer Plus Cold Tablets

PFIZER INC.—Ben-Gay

REVLON INC.—Liquiprin Nighttime Colds Medicine for Children

RICHARDSON-MERRELL INC.—Victors Cough Drops, Vicks Formula 44 Cough Discs, Vicks Formula 44 Cough Mixture, Vicks NyQuil, Vicks Sinex Nasal Spray, Vicks VapoRub, Vicks Vapo Steam, Vicks Cough Drops

SCHERING-PLOUGH CORP.—Aspergum, St. Joseph Cough Syrup for Children

SMITH, KLINE & FRENCH LABORATORIES—C-3, Contac

STERLING DRUG INC.—Neo-Synephrine Nasal Spray, Neo-Synephrine Nose Drops

WARNER-LAMBERT CO.—Hall's Mentho-Lyptus, Listerine Antiseptic Throat Lozenges, Listerine Antiseptic Throat Lozenges for Children, Listerine Cough Control Lozenges

The following are typical of the claims of the advertisers:

- Dristan Tablets effectively relieve the body aches which accompany a cold or the flu.
- Listerine Antiseptic Throat Lozenges can relieve a sore throat so effectively that only minutes after taking them one who has a sore throat is no longer bothered by it.
- Contac provides relief from a summer cold's symptoms for up to 12 hours.
- 4-Way Nasal Spray provides effective decongestant relief as fast or faster than other decongestants.
- Aspergum gives prompt and effective temporary relief of sore throat pain because by chewing Aspergum you bathe your throat with aspirin.
- Liquiprin Nighttime Colds Medicine for Children is the first nighttime colds medicine exclusively for your child.

Information more readily available for air travelers

Civil Aeronautics Board requires airlines to post their liability limitations for loss, delay or damage to baggage. Airlines began posting the signs at their ticket-sales locations on Jan. 1. They had to make them available to travel agencies by Feb. 1.

The new signs say in part: "Liability for loss, delay or damage to baggage is limited as follows unless a higher value is declared and an extra charge paid: (1) for most international travel (including domestic portions of international journeys), to approximately \$7.50 per pound for checked baggage and \$330 per passenger for unchecked baggage; (2) for travel wholly between U.S. points, to \$500 per passenger for most carriers (a few have lower limits). Special rules may apply to valuable articles."

As of March 1, each U.S. airline (or its agents) will be responsible for issuing a notice with tickets that states the same information as posted on signs plus the following notice: "Excess valuation may not be declared on certain types of valuable articles. Carriers assume no liability for fragile or perishable articles. Further information may be obtained from the carrier."

Agency steps up surveillance of imported products

Food & Drug Administration has been stepping up its surveillance of imported products to detect goods not meeting U.S. standards and requirements for foods, drugs, cosmetics and some household products. During fiscal 1971, FDA detained 9,700 shipments, a 42% increase over detentions in fiscal 1970. Major detentions in fiscal 1971 were mercury-contaminated tuna & swordfish, cheese containing pesticide residues and china & dinnerware with glazes containing lead.

FDA is increasing coverage of imported products by using new inspection procedures

- mobile laboratories for making on-the-spot analyses; the labs are operated by inspectors and technicians on piers and other points where imported products are unloaded;
- teams of inspectors who make dock-side examinations of cargo being unloaded;
- circuit-rider coverage to inspect products entering the United States at inland cities;
- improved coverage of containerized products by liaison with containerization centers and companies, by maintaining inspection stations at the centers and by preselecting types of products for inspection;
- overseas inspections and technical advice to foreign importers on a request basis and by co-operative agreement with foreign governments.

Consumer information on life insurance

Representatives of four major life-insurance associations and three major life-insurance companies are working with the **Office of Consumer Affairs** to develop more and better consumer information about insurance policies. The program is the result of the insurance representatives' meeting last month with the **OCA Consumer Advisory Council's** insurance subcommittee and with Virginia Knauer, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs.

The council subcommittee asked Blake T. Newton, president of Institute of Life Insurance and spokesman for the insurance group, to work with the Office of Consumer Affairs to develop better consumer information and to consider means of educating consumers about how to use the information more effectively in making their decisions about purchasing life insurance.

Cigarette ads to disclose health warning

Federal Trade Commission has provisionally accepted consent orders requiring 6 major cigarette manufacturers to include a health warning in all cigarette advertising. If the FTC accepts the manufacturers' agreements to the orders on a final basis after Feb. 29, FTC will require full compliance with the orders in the fall.

The statement, which is the same required on cigarette packages, is "Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health." The consent-order statement applies to all printed advertisements; Federal law already prohibits cigarette advertising on radio and television.

The consent orders apply to the 6 companies making 99% of the cigarettes sold in the U.S.: American Brands Inc.; Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp.; Liggett & Myers Inc.; the Lorillard division of Loews Theatres Inc.; Philip Morris Inc.; and the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. subsidiary of R.J. Reynolds Industries Inc.

Cigarette labeling report available

Federal Trade Commission has submitted to Congress a report on cigarette labeling and advertising for 1971. The report covers effectiveness of cigarette labeling, current practices and methods of cigarette advertising and promotion, regulatory action affecting cigarette promotion. If you want a copy of the report, request it from Legal & Public Records Section, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580.

Government operates bookstores

If you live in or near 13 metropolitan areas, you may want to browse in a **Government Printing Office Bookstore**. The bookstores stock hundreds of government publications, including books and pamphlets of consumer information. Store personnel will assist you in ordering books not stocked by the local stores.

There are stores in Atlanta, Birmingham, Boston, Canton, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Kansas City, Los Angeles, New York & San Francisco. Washington has 5 stores, including the main bookstore.

Call the bookstore in your area to learn its hours and address. Government Printing Office Bookstores are listed in telephone directories under "U.S. Government." And if you want to receive the free biweekly list of current Federal publications, you should send your request to Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

New Federal publications

Your Federal Income Tax (how to fill in Federal tax returns and a sample of form 1040), published by **Internal Revenue Service**; for sale by U.S. Postal Service's 1st and 2nd class post offices; 75¢.

The following new publications are available at **U.S. Government Printing Office Bookstores** or by ordering from Manager, Public Documents Distribution Center, 5801 Tabor Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19120. When ordering, please include stock number and make checks or money orders payable to Supt. of Documents.

Equal Employment Opportunity Under Federal Law: Clearinghouse Publication No. 17 (a guide to Federal law prohibiting discrimination on account of race, religion, sex or national origin in private & public employment), published by **U.S. Commission on Civil Rights**; 25¢.

Interior Painting in the Home & Around the Farm: Home & Garden Bulletin No. 184 (how-to-do-it booklet), published by **Agriculture Dept.**; No. 1971 9-397-554; 10¢.

The Scope of Community Mental Health Consultation & Education. Public Health Service Publication No. 2169; published by **Health, Education & Welfare Dept.**; No. 1971 0-423-350; 25¢.

Storing Perishable Foods in the Home: Home & Garden Bulletin No. 78; Published by **Agriculture Dept.**; No. 1971 0-406-361; 10¢.

Construction & Evaluation of a Kit-Form Microwave Oven (a report on construction procedure, test results and modifications recommended to the manufacturer of the Healthkit model GD-29 oven); published by **Health, Education & Welfare Dept.**; No. 1715-0016; 35¢.

Miniature Environments: An Environmental Education Guidebook; published by **Interior Dept.**; No. 908-688; 25¢.

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